

Uprising signaled the end of the Qing Dynasty and the start of a democratic movement that we continue to celebrate and recognize. Double Ten Day is a celebration of the birth of democracy and the Republic of China.

I want to especially recognize the people of Taiwan on this important occasion. The strength of the relationship between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States is strong. I look forward to continue working to expand business opportunities as well as deepen our mutual appreciation for each other's unique cultures. Exchange of our cultures is clearly evidenced on Guam, which is home to many people of Chinese ancestry. Guam continues to benefit from their cultural contributions to our community and the promotion of trade and economic opportunities.

Again, I congratulate the people of Taiwan on the 103rd anniversary of Double Ten Day. We celebrate this historic occasion with them and we honor their friendship with the American people.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1086, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014. I would like to thank Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member MILLER for their work on this important legislation.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant program is an investment in our future. We know that quality care can set children up for academic success, and helping families cover the costs of child care enables parents to keep working or train for new careers.

S. 1086 sets new requirements to strengthen child care quality. These requirements, which include background checks for federally-funded providers and yearly safety inspections for non-licensed providers, represent common-sense measures to protect children.

The bill also takes several steps to improve access to child care services. It will give families certainty that their children can receive care for a full year, even if their income—and thus their eligibility—changes. And the bill will help providers budget for their businesses by making sure unpredictable child absences don't affect their funding.

Although I am pleased that the bill authorizes increased appropriations for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, far too many eligible families will continue to go unserved. Supporting safe, high quality child care requires resources, and I hope my colleagues will join me in continuing to call for increased funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program.

COMFORT WOMEN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during World War II, the Japanese military forced

thousands of women mostly from Korea and China to serve as sex slaves for the Japanese Imperial Army. Estimates vary as to how many women were involved, but most agree the number is around 200,000.

These women were referred to as "comfort women." But there was nothing comfortable about their role. The first so-called "comfort station" opened in Shanghai in 1932. These stations were used to satisfy the sexual desires of Japanese troops.

When demand outstripped supply, the Japanese military responded by abducting more women in occupied countries. In other instances, women were lured with promises of work in factories or restaurants before being incarcerated in comfort stations abroad.

An estimated 75 percent of these enforced sex slaves died. Many survivors were left infertile due to sexual trauma or STDs. They also suffered from depression, impaired anger control, and PTSD. These symptoms exist even today, over 60 years later.

Since WWII, the Japanese government has been inconsistent in its message.

Some officials insisted no women were forced into sexual servitude. Other officials claimed their role was "necessary." Still others tried to discredit the few victims that are still alive. Japan would do well to accurately report the history regarding this tragedy.

In 1993, the Japanese released the Kono Statement. In it, they finally confessed to forcing women to work in military-run brothels.

Earlier this year, the Japanese announced that they would be reviewing the "background" of the Kono Statement.

It is time for Japan to own up to its actions. Covering these atrocities behind a smoke screen will not change the truth. The stories of these women have been well documented. Victims have a right to be acknowledged. After so many have died, the few remaining survivors deserve an apology. They deserve justice. This would help the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Korea.

And that's just the way it is.

CELEBRATING THE BIONEERS 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT CON- FERENCE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Bioneers on the occasion of the organization's 25th Anniversary Summit Conference, which will take place in October of 2014.

Since Kenny Asubel and Nina Simons founded Bioneers, the organization has become an important resource for innovators seeking to solve the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges. Through the annual conference and various educational programs, Bioneers connects diverse groups of people to share new, creative ideas and generate positive change at local, regional and international levels. Bioneers has provided one of the planet's primary incubators to help lay the foundation for sustainable and restorative alternatives to the environmentally destructive aspects of the modern global economy.

Bioneers has been a vital tool for the people of California's Second Congressional District

and beyond, and I am confident that the organization will continue to serve as a leading-edge think tank for many years to come. Please join me in congratulating Bioneers on their 25th anniversary celebration and wish them many more successful years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent during September 17, 2014. If I were present, I would have voted on the following:

Rollcall No. 509: H.J. Res 124, "aye."

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support the inclusion of additional funding for the United States Office of Special Counsel, "OSC" in section 124 of H.J. Res. 124. There is a critical need for ongoing oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs, "VA." This section of the Continuing Resolution recognizes that need by providing an increase in funding for the OSC.

OSC protects whistleblowers government-wide who expose waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. Since the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs discovered the use of unofficial, unlawful scheduling lists at the Phoenix VA Health Care System, VA employees across the country have stepped forward to report allegations of further misconduct and threats to Veterans' health care. Whistleblowers have been at the heart of exposing misconduct and promoting accountability at the VA. Many of them have faced retaliation and threats from VA management. This has a chilling and crippling effect on our efforts to restore confidence in the VA.

OSC has been inundated with claims of retaliation and disclosures from VA employees. OSC's numbers are at record-setting levels. In the aftermath of the initial exposure of the VA scandal, cases from VA employees comprise over 29 percent of all OSC's cases, which covers the entire Federal government. This year, OSC will receive over 300 more cases from VA whistleblowers than in the previous year. This is a massive increase for a tiny Federal agency like OSC. In testimony before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Special Counsel Carolyn Lerner told us that OSC had to establish a new priority intake system for VA cases. OSC also reallocated much of its small staff to deal with the VA increase.

Despite its small size, OSC's efforts are making a tremendous difference. Its work has already resulted in relief for courageous VA employees who were retaliated against for speaking out about wait lists and improper care. OSC's review of the VA Office of Medical Inspector led to an overhaul of the internal oversight structure at the VA.